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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 D06F73/02 D06F D06F58/10 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A47B A47L A61L F26B B05B F24F A47G IPC 7 D06F Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Υ PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 4-10,14, vol. 1999, no. 12, 29 October 1999 (1999-10-29) -& JP 11 189968 A (MIYATA YUKIO), 13 July 1999 (1999-07-13) the whole document Υ GB 1 062 979 A (PROCTOR & SCHWARTZ INC) 1,2, 22 March 1967 (1967-03-22) 4-10,14, 15 the whole document Y EP 0 479 241 A (KIMURA TAKAYUKI) 1,2, 8 April 1992 (1992-04-08) 4-10,14, the whole document Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X ° Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the International search Date of malling of the international search report 19/10/2004 8 October 2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Ureta, R

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